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JFW

January 20, 2005

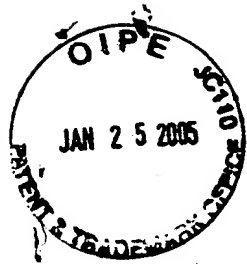
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Art Unit 3673, Application No. 09/751,264
Examiner: Mr. Frederick L. Lagman

Applicant thanks Mr. Lagman for his phone message of January 19, 2005, questioning any intention to abandon the above stated Application in relation to Office Action mailed on June 16, 2004. Applicant had responded on June 28, 2004, to said Office Action and hereby submits as attachment an identical printout of earlier response, assuming prior submission was lost in mail.

Sincerely,

Andrew W. Chow, Applicant
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June 28, 2004

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Art Unit 3673, Application No. 09/751,264
Examiner: Mr. Frederick L. Lagman

The following items are submitted in response to Office Action mailed on 6/16/04.

1. Gerwick disclosed in patent 4,048,943 a narrowed floating platform structure with conical sections above and below solely for purpose of breaking up floating ice. Since it would be desirable to have ice-crushing capability from above and below, the inevitable narrowing of the platform where two pointing cones meet was unavoidable. This narrowing created by chance an appearance of a minimized-wave-zone buoyancy structure, but Gerwick did not contemplate any associated reduction of vertical natural frequency. The dynamic effect sought by Applicant's MWB application goes against Gerwick's ice crushing which would benefit from faster up and down movement instead.
2. Installing Gerwick's platform at locations subject to high ocean waves will not achieve desired effects of MWB. As waves rise or fall on the conical sections, the K portion of the 2nd order differential equation in Applicant's specifications automatically changes, variably increasing the natural frequency of the platform counter to the aim of MWB. Furthermore, Applicant claims in claim no. 1 "minimized wave-zone buoyancy structure having sufficient height to range over ocean waves," and Gerwick clearly failed in this regard without any planned height to accommodate ocean waves, which was not considered for icy environments.
3. Although Gerwick's Figure 6 showed an elongated narrow column 42, it fails to meet the definition of MWB as Gerwick designed the waterline at truncated cone 41, and the arguments above still apply. Furthermore, installing and keeping the elongated column in the wave zone consistent with the intent of MWB would nullify the primary goal of ice crushing, with the cone, for which Gerwick's platform was designed.
4. Gerwick did not have slack cables as designed by Applicant. Gerwick's cables hung tight with a catenary shape in order to provide lateral restraint to counter ice movement.

Applicant hopes the above arguments are convincing and all claims are acceptable.

Sincerely,

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